(e) whether Paradip Port, in Orissa, needs adequate assistance for its development; and

(f) if so, the measures proposed to be taken to improve the viability of that Port?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (c) Port development takes place through five year plans. The Port sector had an outlay of Rs. 3216 crores in 8th Plan (1992—97). The Working Group on 9th Plan (1997—2002) for port sector has proposed an outlay of Rs. 8553 crores.

(d) Following are the broad objectives for development of ports during 8th Plan:—

(i) Development of ports in such a way that it can move with and subserve the overall economic growth;

(ii) Development of proper container handling facilities at major ports and port development should keep pace with changes in shipping scenario, especially in respect of size of ships, specialisation and automation;

(iii) Deepening of drafts at selected major ports to receive larger vessels;

(iv) Increase in dredging capacity by replacement of overaged dredgers with modern larger capacity dredgers;

(v) Before embarking on any major investment on creation of additional infrastructural facilities, the development and modernisation of existing port facilities should receive top priority to improve overall efficiency and cargo handling productivity.

(vi) Planned modernisation of port facilities and use of updated technology;

(vii) Appropriate financial measures to be taken to improve the viability of ports including pooling of resources of major ports, rationalisation of port tariff, simplification of documentation system;

(viii) Encourage Private Sector in appropriate areas of investment such as ship repair facilities, dry docking, container terminal etc., to operate under the overall administration of ports;

(ix) Development of inter-face transport links like rail and road to enable smooth transhipment and flow of traffic.

(e) and (f) In the 8th Plan, a revised outlay of Rs. 350.00 crores was fixed for Paradip Port out of which an expenditure of about Rs. 279 crores is anticipated by the end of 8th Plan. In 9th Plan an outlay of Rs. 1452 crores has been proposed for Paradip Port.

Leasing of the Building of All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Cooperative Society

*295. SHRI NARESH YADAV:
SMT. MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that building belonging to the All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Co-operative Society at Bombay, has given on lease; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) The All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Cooperative Society Ltd. has informed that though they do not own any building at Bombay, but owns a portion of premises on the 5th Floor, Mittal chambers, Nariman Point, Bombay from where the Principal/Head Office of the Society was functioning during the period 1976 to 1987. Thereafter, the said office of the Society was shifted from Bombay to Delhi. The Office premises at Bombay was hence lying vacant. Therefore, in the interest of the Society, the said premises was given on lease to M/s Global Trust Bank Ltd., against interest-free refundable deposit of Rs. 5.50 crores and monthly lease rent amount of Rs. 1.00 lakh for five years.

Issue of Video Conference Licenses

*296. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Video Conferencing licenses issued in India, State-wise;